



NATIONAL  
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# WEATHER & CROPS



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**Week Ending: October 31, 2010**

**Number: 34**

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## WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2010

Unseasonably warm conditions left the state mid-week as a cold front crossed the area bringing thunderstorms, high winds, and even a few tornadoes. The end of the week had cooler conditions with frost reported in many areas. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.9. The variety of weather patterns delayed soybean harvest and wheat planting, enhanced small grain germination and emergence, and ended some vegetable production. Dark tobacco farmers prepared their tobacco for market. A little corn remains in the field and is expected to be harvested soon. Pastures and hayfields look much better however; some farmers continue to feed hay and will have to do so through the winter due to the drought conditions of the summer.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT				
Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
October 3, 2010	4	18	55	23
October 10, 2010	6	27	63	4
October 17, 2010	6	27	65	2
October 24, 2010	9	24	65	2
October 31, 2010	5	24	65	6

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CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	11	26	36	25	2
Livestock	1	9	32	48	10
Soybeans	16	26	46	11	1

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Soybeans Harvested	46	37	35	38
Winter Wheat Seeded	59	46	51	45
Winter Wheat Emerged	35	18	30	16
Barley Seeded	95	90	89	89
Flue-cured Tobacco Harvested	94	87	100	99
Peanuts Dug	92	79	99	94
Peanuts Combined	74	49	91	83
Cotton Harvested	77	74	53	58
Fall Apples Harvested	92	81	100	100
Winter Apples Harvested	79	74	82	82
Oats for Grain Seeded	86	85	84	34

### VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 31, 2010

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50)		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Oct 30	Mar. 1 to Oct 30 Normal	Last Week	Since Sept 1	Sept 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	71	49	76	30	60	7	4297	3843	1.44	9.32	2.16	41.59	4.79
Norfolk	76	59	87	49	68	10	5043	4312	1.35	14.80	7.40	47.63	7.94
Richmond	74	52	85	35	63	8	4915	4174	0.66	8.63	1.20	31.35	-6.42
Roanoke	71	50	77	35	60	6	4522	NA	0.67	8.81	1.93	38.16	1.82
Wash/Dulles	70	50	78	33	60	8	4398	NA	0.75	8.55	1.49	35.06	-0.35

\* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

### REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

#### NORTHERN

##### **FAIRFAX(Adria Bordas)**

Warm temperatures throughout the week contributed to good working conditions.

#### WESTERN

##### **AUGUSTA (Tom Stanley)**

Most of Augusta County received .5 inch of rain or more Tuesday night. This helped maintain or further improve soil moisture but did slow fall field work. Another frost early Saturday morning helped bring an end to the summer grazing and growing season.

##### **ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)**

All of Rockbridge received between .5 and 1 inch of rain Tuesday night helping maintain or improve soil moisture conditions. The second frost of the season occurred early Saturday morning. Many farmers are still feeding hay and will have to do so through the winter due to summer drought conditions.

#### CENTRAL

##### **AMELIA (Joan D Poore)**

Un-seasonable week - nearly record highs to a 30 degree drop in temperatures - sparking many thunderstorms, winds and tornado conditions Wednesday evening. No reports of ag related issues. Rainfall ranged from 1.2 to 1.5 inches.

##### **APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)**

The remaining soybeans in the field are the late double crop beans. The first killing frost of the season came during the week. This should speed the harvest of the beans. A little corn is still in the field but will be finished soon. Dark tobacco farmers are preparing their tobacco for market.

##### **CHESTERFIELD (Joan D. Poore)**

Un-seasonable weather conditions - nearly record highs to a drop of approximately 35 degrees - setting off thunderstorm activity Wednesday evening. High winds, rain and tornado watches for the entire area. High winds caused damage to homes - no damage reported for ag related areas. Rainfall ranged from 1.5 inch to nearly 2.0 inches.

#### CENTRAL (*continued*)

##### **HANOVER (Jim Tate)**

There was .85 inches rain at my Western Hanover home this week. Severe thunderstorms caused tornados in Eastern Hanover. Most small grain is up and looks good. Some late beans have yet to be harvested but a lot is done. The first frost of the season was the night of Oct 30-31 at my house.

#### EASTERN

##### **MIDDLESEX (Moore)**

Rain during the week has slowed soybean harvest and wheat planting. Hotter than normal temperatures together with good soil moisture has been good for fall planted crops. Wheat and barley have very good growth on them right now. Soybean harvest continues as yields are still average in most places. Expectations for a lot of DC soybeans after wheat are not that high. Soil moisture is good and pastures and hay fields are looking much better. Producers are busy making plans for 2011 crops and also watching the markets and pricing inputs. Pesticide applicator re-certifications and winter production meetings are being planned.

#### SOUTHWESTERN

##### **SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)**

First killing frost brought vegetable production to an end. Strawberry plants are looking good, great growth and crown development. Cattle producers are working on upcoming premium assured heifer sale.

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## REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

### SOUTHEASTERN

#### **SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)**

Recent rains have slowed harvest. Fields must dry some before resuming. Some areas of the county received up to 4.5 inches of rain in the last round of storms. Fall seeded planting should resume this coming week.

#### **SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)**

Rain showers have been plentiful for the past two weeks and slowed a lot of fall harvesting. Peanut, soybean and cotton yields are estimated to be around a half of a crop for this year.

#### **CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)**

Rain the latter part of this week has delayed soybean harvest and wheat planting. Warm temperatures helping small grains germinate and emerge. Some fall ditching has begun before wet winter conditions set in.



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